

This paper investigates how incorporating degree-heterogeneous network structures, as opposed to homogeneous-mixing Introduction Mathematical modeling of infectious diseases traditionally relies on the assumption of homogeneous (mean Recent research confirms that epidemic outcomes such as peak incidence, total epidemic size, and extinction probability Scenario and Scientific Goal We study the effect of network heterogeneity on SEIR epidemic dynamics, using two network

$S\beta, IE$: Infections induced by infectious contacts at rate β
 $E\sigma I$: Exposed become infectious at rate σ
 $I\gamma R$: Infectious recover at rate γ

Network Construction and Parameters
Two networks of $N = 1000$ nodes, mean degree $\langle k \rangle \approx 8$, were created:
ER: Erdős–Rényi $G(N, p)$, $p = 8/(N - 1)$
BA: Barabási–Albert, $m = 4$

Summary statistics:
ER: $\langle k \rangle = 8.036$, $\langle k^2 \rangle = 72.48$
BA: $\langle k \rangle = 7.97$, $\langle k^2 \rangle = 138.02$
See Figure for degree distributions.

[ht] [width=0.8]degree_distributions.png Degree distribution for ER (homogeneous) and BA (heterogeneous) networks.

SEIR Model Details and Analytical Thresholds
Parameter values:
Transmission rate: $\beta = 0.07$
Progression (latent): $\sigma = 0.2$ (latent period 5)
Recovery rate: $\gamma = 0.2$ (infectious period 5)
Initial conditions: $S = 99\%$, $E = 0\%$, $I = 1\%$, $R = 0\%$ (initialized randomly). Simulation time window: 0 – 200 units. Num

For network-based SEIR, the effective contact factor $q = (\langle k^2 \rangle - \langle k \rangle) / \langle k \rangle$. The analytical reproduction number on a ne

$R_0^{ER} \approx 2.81$
 $R_0^{BA} \approx 5.71$ The deterministic ODE mean-field model uses the same rates and k_{mean} as the ER network. See Figure .

[ht] [width=0.6]seir_reference.png Deterministic ODE solution for SEIR with homogeneous – mixing.

Simulation Workflow Networks, model, and simulation were implemented in Python (see code in Appendix). The FastC

Results The epidemic curves for $I(t)$ on both ER and BA networks are presented in Figure . Key quantitative metrics

ER network: Peak $I = 99$, at $t = 38.3$; Final size $R = 827$, Epidemic duration = 96.8 units
BA network: Peak $I = 131$, at $t = 37.0$; Final size $R = 786$, Epidemic duration = 89.0 units

Doubling time (early phase): ER 4.08, BA 19.59

[ht] [width=0.7]I_curve_comparison.png Comparison of infectious (I) population over time for SEIR on ER (homogeneous) and

Curve Shape Comparison The BA (heterogeneous) network produces a higher and earlier peak in I , but a shorter overa

Discussion Analytical Insights Analytical threshold calculations show that increased degree variance in the BA network

Simulation and Realism Stochastic simulation results corroborate analytical predictions: the epidemic on the BA netwo

Degree-heterogeneous networks—common in real-world human contacts—thus modify both prediction and control of ep

Conclusion Incorporation of degree-heterogeneous network structure in SEIR models changes fundamental disease dyna

Higher R_0 for same mean degree
Larger, earlier epidemic peaks and faster initial growth
Shorter epidemic duration but smaller final epidemic size
Deterministic ODE models can closely approximate ER network results but systematically mischaracterize dynamics on deg

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Appendices Network Construction Code output/network_construction.py Analytical Calculation Code output/analytical_c